

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. In this regard, it is noted that upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14, 23-33 and 36-42 will have been canceled and claims 15-22 and 34-35 will remain pending for consideration by the Examiner.

Applicant notes that the Examiner asserts that a bona fide amendment was filed on January 27, 2005, but that it was not fully responsive to the prior office action on the ground that the claims are directed to an invention different from the original claims. As a result, the Examiner issued a final Office Action, setting forth a one month shortened statutory period to file a proper response. Applicant respectfully traverses the issuance of an Office Action, and the making of the action final.

While Applicant believes that a responsive amendment was in fact filed on January 27, 2005, Applicant herewith amends claims 15, 19, 34, and 35 and cancels claims 23-33 and 36-42 to advance the prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant expressly reserves the right to submit claims similar to the claims presented in the January 27, 2005 amendment in another application.

Applicant submits that if the Examiner determines that a bona fide response has been filed (as the Examiner indicated to be the case in the present application), the Examiner should have issued either a Notice of Non-Compliance, or a Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the making of the Office Action final is improper, as no

substantive rejection has been made in the issued action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of action.

With regard to pending claims 15-22 and 34-35, Applicant submits that they have now been amended to place them in the form agreed to with the Examiner during the interview on January 26, 2005. Specifically, the claims have been amended to recite that the received e-mail (or the image data attached to the received e-mail) is printed without printing a text part page when it is determined that the text part includes only a predetermined code. Applicant submits that this claim language corresponds to the language contained in the Examiner's Interview Summary mailed on February 2, 2005.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider Applicant's remarks submitted in the January 27, 2005 amendment when examining the claims in the present amendment. In this regard, Applicant notes that the present invention, as defined by the claims, generally relate to an Internet facsimile apparatus which receives e-mail and prints the e-mail. The Internet facsimile apparatus comprises a controller which determines whether the received e-mail includes a text part when it is determined that the received e-mail comprises a multipart structure. The controller also determines whether the text part includes only a predetermined code. When it is determined that the text part includes only the predetermined code, the received e-mail is printed without printing a text part page (which contains only the predetermined code).

Applicant submits the applied art of record fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature. As indicated in the amendment filed on

January 27, 2005, KITAORI et al. relate to an electronic signature method for verifying a predetermined cited message of an electronic document with an electronic signature, even if the predetermined message is cited from the electronic document. The electronic signature is added to the electronic document in order to verify that the contents of the electronic document are not altered. For example, the electronic signature indicates that "an electronic document with the electronic signature is indeed drafted by a public organization and is not illicitly altered information or a grapevine" (see, col.1, lines 41-46). This differs from Applicant's instant invention, which does not verify the contents of an electronic document with an electronic signature, but instead, for example, does not print a text part page that contains only a predetermined code (such as, but not limited to, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed), so that, for example, the usage of printer paper is reduced. Thus, Applicant submits that the pending claims are completely distinguished over KITAORI et al.

Applicant further noted in the amendment filed on January 27, 2005 that the second embodiment of KITAORI et al. discloses an electronic signature method for treating a document as a non-altered document when a control character (such as a space, or a line return which is not associated with the meaning of a document with an electronic signature) is inserted, i.e., when the meaning itself of the document is not altered. On the other hand, Applicant's instant invention does not treat a document as a non-altered document when a control character, such as a space, or a line return is inserted in the document. Instead, the present invention, for example, does not print a text part page from

a received e-mail when the text part includes only a predetermined code, such as, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed.

Further, it was pointed out in the January 27, 2005 amendment that the second embodiment of KITAORI et al. invalidates a whole document if at least one altered signature message is present in the document. In the second embodiment, KITAORI et al. treat a document as a non-altered document when a control character such as a space, or a line return is inserted in the document, as noted above. Thus, KITAORI et al. function to validate a whole document when only the control character, such as, for example, a space, or a line return is inserted in the document. On the other hand, Applicant's present invention functions to, for example, not print a text part page from a received e-mail when the text part includes only a predetermined code, such as, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed, so that a text part that includes only the predetermined code is not printed.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that KITAORI et al. fail to anticipate the present invention, as defined by the amended claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 15-22 and 34-35 are not disclosed in KITAORI et al. cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

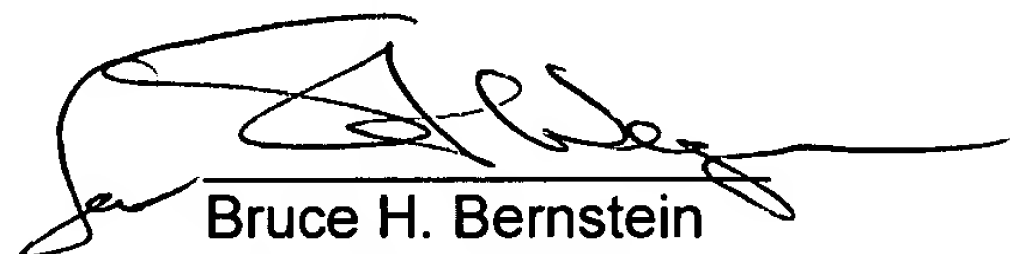
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance in accordance with the agreement reached with the Examiner during the interview of January 26, 2005, and believes that he has now done so. With respect to the amended claims, Applicant has pointed out the features thereof and has contrasted the features of the new claims with the disclosures of the references. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any concerns with respect to this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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